

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 IO-13 NEA-11 NSAE-00 ICA-11
OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00
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P 121517Z MAY 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1437

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USOECD

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TAGS: EGEN, OECD
SUBJECT: OECD RELATIONS WITH LDC'S AND OTHER NON-MEMBERS

REF: A) PARIS 11578 B) STATE 92984

1) SUMMARY: MISSION'S INITIAL INFORMAL SOUNDINGS WITH OTHER KEY DELS INDICATE INTEREST IN GRAPPLING WITH ISSUE OF OECD RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY LDC'S, AT EARLY DATE. ON SUBSTANCE THERE IS CLEAR DESIRE TO PRESERVE PRESENT NATURE OF ORGANIZATION AND NOT ADD NEW MEMBERS. SOME, ESPECIALLY JAPAN, ARE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT LDC INVOLVEMENT IN SECTORAL ACTIVITIES. SECRETARIAT'S PAPER ON THESE QUESTIONS, WHICH WILL PROBABLY SEEK TO OUTLINE FRAMEWORK OF PRINCIPLES FOR DEALING WITH NON-MEMBERS AND EXPLORE MODALITIES FOR EXPANDING CONTACTS SHORT OF MEMBERSHIP/OBSERVER STATUS, SEEMS TO BE NEAR POINT WHERE IT COULD BE CONSIDERED BY G-7. ALTHOUGH SUBJECT WILL PROBABLY NOT BE RIPE FOR CONSIDERATION BY
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MINISTERS AS SOON AS JUNE, MISSION SUGGESTS DEPARTMENT CONSIDER INCLUDING POSITIVE STATEMENT ON OECD RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBERS IN SECRETARY VANCE'S SPEECH FOR JUNE 14-15 MINISTERIAL AS WAY OF FOLLOWING UP PRESIDENTIAL INTEREST EXPRESSED EARLIER THIS YEAR AND EXPEDITING OECD CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. CHARGE TOOK OCCASION OF INFORMAL G-7 CHIEFS OF MISSION LUNCH (WITH SEC GEN VAN LENNEP PRESENT) MAY 9 TO RAISE GENERAL SUBJECT OF OECD RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBERS. HE NOTED THAT HIGHEST LEVELS OF USG WERE INTERESTED IN THIS QUESTION, TO WHICH THE ORGANIZATION WOULD NO DOUBT HAVE TO DEVOTE CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION OVER NEXT FEW YEARS, AND SUGGESTED IT WAS IMPORTANT TO HAVE A WELL-REASONED AND CAREFUL STUDY BY THE SECRETARIAT TO PROVIDE BASIS FOR GOVERNMENT CONSIDERATION. CHARGE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ALL SEEMED TO AGREE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO CONSIDER POTENTIAL FOR ASSOCIATING SELECTED LDC'S WITH WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION ON SELECTED TOPICS, BUT FEW HAD GIVEN THOUGHT TO COMPLEX ISSUES -- SUCH AS THOSE RAISED BY JAPANESE AT XCSS AND OTHER MEETINGS -- INVOLVED IN PUTTING THIS INTO PRACTICE IN SPECIFIC CASES. HE PROPOSED VAN LENNEP PRESENT SECRETARIAT THINKING ON THESE QUESTIONS TO A SMALL GROUP OF DELS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. REACTION OF OTHER G-7 DELS STRONGLY SUPPORTED EARLY CONSIDERATION OF ISSUE OF RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBERS. GENERAL FEELING WAS THAT, WHATEVER APPROACH IS TAKEN, UTILITY OF OECD AS FORUM WHERE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES CAN CONFIDENTIALLY DISCUSS THEIR OWN PROBLEMS TOGETHER SHOULD NOT BE IMPAIRED, I.E. LDC'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOULD NOT BECOME REGULAR MEMBERS OF OR OBSERVERS IN THE THE ORGANIZATION OR ITS SUBSIDIARY ORGANS. IN ADDITION, LDC INVOLVEMENT SHOULD BE BY INVITATION ONLY. VAN LENNEP SAID SECRETARIAT HAD PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT NEAR COMPLETION. (IN BILATERAL DISCUSSION EARLIER IN WEEK WITH AMBASSADOR SALZMAN, GERMAN PERMREP EMMEL SAID FRG SUPPORTED NEGATIVE JAPNAESE VIEW REPORTED REF A ON ADVISABILITY OF INVOLVING LDC'S IN OECD SECTORAL ACTIVITIES. LOCAL FRENCH DEL HAS ALSO SHOWN LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR LDC INVOLVEMENT).

4. MISSION OFFICER HAS DISCUSSED CONTENT AND STATUS OF FORTHCOMING SECRETARIAT PAPER WITH MEMBER OF VAN LENNEP'S STAFF (DANTIN), WHO INDICATES PAPER HAS BEEN THROUGH FIRST DRAFT AND MAY, AFTER IT IS REVISED, BE IN SHAPE FOR G-7 CONSIDERATION WITHIN 2-3 WEEKS. AS IT STANDS NOW, SECRETARIAT NOTE ANALYZES TECHNICAL USOECD

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AND POLITICAL OBJECTIVES OECD WOULD HAVE IN ASSOCIATING NON-MEMBERS WITH WORK, DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN KINDS OF COUNTRIES INVOLVED (EAST, OPEC, NEWLY INDUSTRIALIZING COUNTRIES - NIC'S, OTHER LDC'S), AND SUGGESTS GENERAL PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE RELATIONS AND POSSIBILITIES FOR EXPANDING THEM.

5. CURRENT THINKING EMBODIED IN PAPER IS THAT ORGANIZATION SHOULD AGREE ON GENERAL LINE WHICH FORECLOSES POSSIBILITY OF ADMITTING NEW COUNTRIES AS MEMBERS OR OBSERVERS BUT SUPPORTS USING EXISTING MEANS FOR EXPANDING CONTACTS WITH NON-MEMBERS ON A PRAGMATIC, CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, WITH INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES OF OECD GOVERNMENTS FOREMOST IN MIND. POSSIBILITIES IN THIS AREA INCLUDE EXPANDED CONTACTS BY SECRETARIAT, INVITATION OF SELECTED NON-MEMBERS TO TECHNICAL SEMINARS AND SYMPOSIUMS, PARTICIPATION BY THEM IN CERTAIN MEETINGS ON AN AD HOC BASIS, MEMBERSHIP IN CERTAIN BODIES, AND PERHAPS PERMANENT LIAISON CONTACTS WITH LOCAL REPS OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES. DANTIN EXPECTS RE-

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DRAFT OF PAPER TO INVOLVE MAINLY REFINING ANALYSIS OF FUNCTIONAL AREAS WHERE NON-MEMBERS' ROLE

IN WORLD ECONOMY MAKES ASSOCIATION WITH OECD ACTIVITIES MOST USEFUL. ACCOUNT WILL ALSO BE PRESENTED OF CURRENT AND PAST OECD ACTIVITIES INVOLVING NON-MEMBERS, WHICH SECRETARIAT BELIEVES ARE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE EXTENSIVE THAN DELS SUSPECT.

6. THE OECD'S EXAMINATION OF THE ISSUE OF RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBERS IS LIKELY TO BE ONLY AT THE EARLIEST STAGE OF CONSIDERATION BY THE TIME OF THE JUNE 14-15 MINISTERIAL. NEVERTHELESS WE URGE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER USING SECRETARY VANCE'S SPEECH AT THIS MEETING AS VEHICLE FOR FOLLOWING UP INTEREST IN THIS QUESTION EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER EARLIER THIS YEAR AND GIVING ORGANIZATION A PUSH IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. THE DEVISING OF FEASIBLE FORMS OF ASSOCIATION -- SHORT OF MEMBERSHIP -- OF SELECTED LDC'S IN CERTAIN OECD ACTIVITIES WOULD SEEM TO BE ONE OF THE WAYS AN APPROACH TO N/S RELATIONS EMPHASIZING THE COMMON INTERESTS OF ALL COUNTRIES IN THE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD ECONOMY, SUCH AS US HAS PUT FORWARD AT UN OVERVIEW COMMITTEE, COULD BE IMPLEMENTED INSTITUTIONALLY.

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